

THE HAZELNUT

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1

APRIL 2011

Project road closures will affect those who work or shop in Tukwila

During the last week of March, work began on the City of Tukwila's Southcenter Access Project, which affects two major intersections: Southcenter Parkway at Klickitat Drive and Southcenter Parkway at Strander Boulevard. The construction will also affect the adjacent off-ramps from northbound I-5. Portions of Southcenter Parkway, Klickitat Drive and the I-5 off-ramps will have long-term road closures, allowing crews to safely and efficiently reconfigure Southcenter Parkway.

Roads are scheduled to reopen by November, in time for the 2011 holiday shopping season. Southcenter-area businesses will remain open for business throughout the road closure.

The Southcenter Access Project is a major reconstruction of Southcenter Parkway. This project will improve safety and traffic flow, as well as reduce congestion at the Strander Boulevard/Southcenter Parkway and Klickitat Drive/Southcenter Parkway intersections and I-5 off-ramps.

Some traffic delays are to be expected during the road closures, so – if you're driving in and around the Southcenter area – you should plan for extra travel time to reach your destination. For more information about the project, road closures, detour routes and construction updates, see the information at right.

SOUTHCENTER ACCESS PROJECT

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:

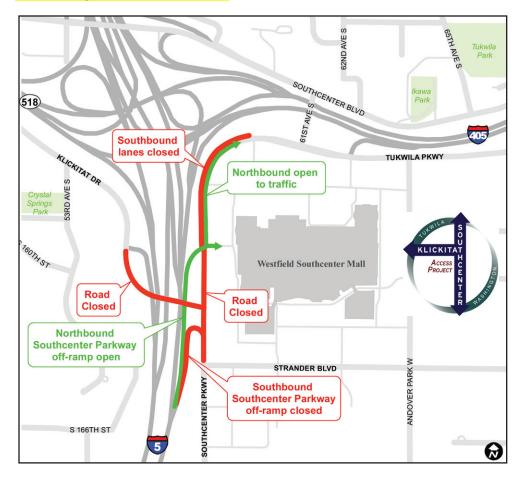
Website: View detour route maps, project information, road closure updates and more at www.southcenteraccess.com

Email Notifications: Subscribe to receive emails about changes in road closures and major construction updates, also at www.southcenteraccess.com

TO CONTACT US:

Email: southcenteraccess@tukwilawa.gov

Project Message Line: 206-431-2444



MAJOR ROAD IMPACTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

SOUTHCENTER PARKWAY

closed both directions between Strander Boulevard and the west mall entrance (Nordstrom side)

KLICKITAT DRIVE

closed both directions between Southcenter Pkwy and I-5 southbound on-ramp (other side of I-5)

NORTHBOUND OFF-RAMP

closed to southbound Southcenter Pkwv

SOUTHCENTER PARKWAY

southbound lane closed between north mall entrance and west mall entrance (curve around NW corner)

Closures are long-term, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. See website for other road and lane closure updates as information becomes available

December 2010

Held public hearing & adopted Development Agreement between City and WEA Southcenter LLC regarding traffic impact fees for development and redevelopment of Southcenter Mall.

Held public hearing and amended City's 2009–10 Biennial Budget.

Held public hearing and adopted City's 2011–2012 Biennial Budget.

Held public hearing and adopted 2011-2016 Financial Planning Model and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for general government and City's enterprise funds...

Authorized contract with Western Systems of Everett, WA for ITS traffic signal control cabinets for Tukwila Urban Center Access (Klickitat) project and the Southcenter Extension project.

Authorized formation of Joint Ad-Hoc Committee with representatives from City of Tukwila and Kent Regional Fire Authority to explore opportunities for joint fire service consolidation.

Approved contract with CH2M Hill for construction management support for Tukwila Urban Center Access project.

Authorized phone service agreements with Integra Telecom for 2011–2012.



Mayor Haggerton presents award to Bob Noble and Richard Garrett

January 2011

Elected Allan Ekberg as Council President.

Adopted legislative agenda and priorities for use in 2011 Washington State Legislative Session.

Held public hearing and adopted ordinance renewing 6-month moratorium on acceptance of applications for and issuance of land use, building, and development permits, business licenses and/or approvals for any change in use for certain non-industrial uses within Manufacturing Industrial Center zone.

Awarded 2010 Recycler of the Year to Grainger – Branch 753.

Appointed Kathleen Gantz to City's Equity & Diversity Commission.

Held public hearing on ordinance repealing Tukwila Municipal Code Chapter 5.20 regarding social card rooms.

February 2011

Authorized Human Services contracts for various services during 2011–12.

Approved resolution adopting Tukwila Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Authorized establishment of Central Treasury Fund for City.

Held public hearing and passed ordinance regarding electric vehicle infrastructure code amendments.

Approved ordinance prohibiting social card rooms conducted as commercial stimulant effective January 1, 2016.

Authorized an Interagency Agreement with the State of Washington Department of General Administration for the use of grant funds for energy and lighting upgrades to City facilities.

Authorized agreement with KPG, Inc. for 2011 Annual Small Drainage Program.

Grainger honored as Tukwila Business Recycler of 2010

The City of Tukwila recognized Grainger for its outstanding recycling and waste prevention successes by naming it "2010 Tukwila Business Recycler of the Year."

Grainger is an international supplier of facilities maintenance, safety and other industrial products serving businesses and institutions. Located at 6725 South Todd Boulevard, Grainger Tukwila employs approximately 50 people.

Some highlights of Grainger's environmental program:

- A 51% recycling rate
- Operating an increasingly paperless environment with electronic invoice options and other paperwork reduction practices
- Green housekeeping policies
- Using air hand dryers in bathrooms to reduce paper towels
- Water reduction with metered faucets and low-flow water closets and urinals
- Point-of-use hot water heaters
- Energy savings with occupancy sensors in offices and common areas
- Programmable thermostats
- Adjusting employee shift times to allow the building to "sleep" and go unoccupied

Congratulations to Grainger Tukwila for its outstanding recycling program!

COUNCIL CORNER

Council Coffee Chats: Democracy in Action

By Allan Ekberg, 2011 Council President

Some community members have attended one of our Chats; many have not. So what is a council coffee chat?

Simply, it's a way to sit down once a month with a Tukwila City Council member and shoot the breeze over coffee in a local coffee establishment. It's also an opportunity to dig deeper into a topic of contention, like gaming which has been discussed most recently.

Held on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00_{AM} to noon, Council Chats are one forum that Tukwila sponsors for open government. Council member Joe Duffie attended the January chat, followed by myself in February and Verna Seal in March. The future lineup schedule:

- April 9 Joan Hernandez
- May 14 De'Sean Quinn
- June 11 Kathy Hougardy
- July 9 Joan Hernandez

- August 13 Joe Duffie
- September 10 Kathy Hougardy
- October 8 Verna Seal
- November 12 De'Sean Quinn
- December 10 Dennis Robertson

The Coffee Chat location is confirmed through June at:

Friendz Café 12930 E Marginal Way South (Corner of E Marginal Way S & S 130th St)

Friendz provides great coffee with a nice room and conference table that

seats a dozen folks easily.

Recent get-togethers have been host

Recent get-togethers have been host to discussions about gaming, street improvements, crime, code enforcement, Tukwila Village, converting Tukwila's swimming pool into a self-funded park district, and animal control, to name just a few. Any topic on your mind is most welcome. Following the Coffee Chat, each Council member gener-

ally reports what was talked about on that Saturday morning to fellow Council members (either in writing or at a Council meeting). If a citizen brings up a topic requiring response, the Councilmember forwards the issue to the appropriate City staff. Staff will follow up, providing information/answers directly to both the requesting citizen and the Council member, ensuring the issue is handled.

As you likely know, citizen comments are welcomed at each and every Council meeting. However, the very nature of a Coffee Chat can lend itself to an open dialogue and in-depth discussion between a Council member and fellow community members. Often an additional Council member will show up for a cup of coffee, and listen and participate in the discussion. Please join your City Council representatives at one of the next coffee chats; I personally look forward to dropping by and seeing you there.

You may be eligible for 2010 utility tax rebates

In 2003 the City of Tukwila imposed a Utility Tax and added surcharge to Seattle City Light customers as a contract fee. A policy has been established by the City to rebate the additional taxes and contract surcharge fees to low-income seniors (62 or older) or disabled residents who may be eligible for electric and natural gas utility rebates.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be at least 62 years of age or disabled.
- Must have combined income of less than \$31,150 or less than \$27,250 if single.
- Must be a Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light customer.

REQUIRED INFORMATION (DUE BY JUNE 30, 2011):

- Must complete application and notarized supplemental affidavit at the Finance Department in Tukwila City Hall.
- Must provide copy of their 2010 Income Tax Return.
- Provide their Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light Account number.

PAYMENT PROCESS:

Those applicants determined to be eligible will receive a rebate check from the City based on the actual taxes and surcharges paid for 2010. For additional information, please call Lily Jue at 206-433-7190.



Second Saturday of each month 10:00am to 12:00noon

Come join us at FRIENDZ CAFE

12930 E Marginal Way S (*Phone* 206-246-2401)

Council Coffee Chat is an opportunity to stop by and informally talk with a Tukwila City Council member about anything on your mind regarding your community.

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City of Tukwila
Manufacturing/Industrial Center (MIC)

PUBLIC WORKSHOP & OPEN HOUSE Thursday, April 14 – 4:30 to 6:30_{PM}

Tukwila Community Center 12424 - 42nd Avenue South

We are looking for answers to these questions: How can the City of Tukwila help grow the economy in its Manufacturing/Industrial Center? How do existing Comprehensive Plan policies, zoning regulations and area boundaries protect or discourage industrial activity? What changes, if any, are needed?

Interested? This is an opportunity to discuss these issues with property owners, businesses and residents in the East Marginal Way South vicinity, and to provide City staff with your ideas and feedback. We've done a preliminary investigation and will share what we've found.

Visit our web page at www.ci.tukwila.wa.us/dcd/micstudy.html, and take a few minutes to share your ideas and comments.

If you'd like more information, please contact Rebecca Fox at 206-431-3683, or email rfox@ci.tukwila.wa.us.

Tukwila's Code Enforcement Office deals with numerous issues

When notified by citizens about particular concerns in their neighborhood, Tukwila's Code Enforcement Officers investigate the complaints. Some common code violations reported in our community are about:

- ▲ RESIDENTIAL PARKING All vehicles must be parked on either asphalt, concrete or compacted gravel on private residential property. This includes recreational vehicles (motorhomes, trailers or boats), and all passenger cars, trucks or vans. Recreational vehicles, when parked in the front yard, MUST be parked on the regular driveway.
- ▲ COMMERCIAL VEHICLES Commercial vehicles, such as semi-trucks, delivery trucks, limousines, etc., are prohibited from parking on our residential streets unless actively loading or unloading commodities. The owner/operator of a commercial vehicle is permitted to park one commercial vehicle on the driveway of his residence.
- ▲ JUNK VEHICLES You may not store a junk vehicle (inoperable, unlicensed, missing major components) or vehicle parts outside of a garage or carport.
- ▲ DEBRIS OR GARBAGE Garbage must be stored in lidded containers until it is disposed of at the landfill. Curbside garbage collection is available.
- ▲ GRAFFITI It is the responsibility of the property owner to remove or paint over graffiti on their buildings or structures.

▲ WEEDS, OVERGROWTH – Any weeds or uncultivated plants over 24" in height are considered a nuisance. We

encourage everyone be a good neighbor and keep weeds and blackberry bushes trimmed back from the property lines.

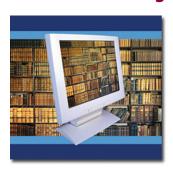
- \blacktriangle BUSINESS LICENSING All businesses are required to have a business license issued by the Finance Department. Home occupations are permitted. They also require a business license and must meet additional requirements established by the zoning code.
- ▲ RESIDENTIAL RENTAL BUSINESS LICENSES are required for all rental properties. Inspections of each unit are required every fifth year. Application forms are available on the City's website. For more information, contact Kathy Stetson at 206-431-3682.
- ▲ ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU) Sometimes referred to as "mother-in-law" apartments, ADUs are permitted in the single-family zone. City regulations state that ADUs may not be established in a detached structure; must obtain a building permit; must meet size restrictions off-street parking must be provided; and the owner must occupy one of the units. Additional information is available from the Department of Community Development.
- \blacktriangle BUILDING PERMITS Many construction projects need building permits. If you feel there is work being done without a valid permit, or have a questions on construction in your area, call Tukwila's Permit Center at 206-431-3670.
- ▲ SIGN PERMITS Temporary and permanent signs need permits. Tukwila's Sign Code information is online at: <u>www.tukwilawa.gov/dcd/signcodereg.html</u>

Code Enforcement makes a positive community impact, by improving the City's appearance and ensuring that only

permitted activities take place in Tukwila's neighborhoods. For more information, visit us online at www.tukwilawa.gov, or call the Code Enforcement Office at 206-431-3676.

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Tukwila debuts Digital Records Center



At the March 14, 2011 Tukwila City Council meeting, City Clerk Christy O'Flaherty gave a presentation on the City's Records Management Program and introduced the new Digital Records Center. Tukwila's Records Management Program was initiated in 1991, and the Digital Records Center is the newest component of

the program. The program utilizes Laserfiche Imaging Technology to make official City records searchable by a keyword and accessible to all through a web browser. The site includes a customized Laserfiche Guide to help users navigate the system.

Among the records available in the Digital Records Center:

- Audio Recordings of the Council Meetings
- Council Agenda Packets
- City Council Minutes from 1908 to current
- Council Committee Packets and Minutes
- Ordinances and Resolutions
- Contracts and Agreements
- Interlocal Agreements
- Legal / Public Notices
- Tukwila Municipal Code

The Clerk's Office will continue to add records to the system. Additionally, citizens can now sign up to receive a weekly email with a link to that week's Council agenda packets. To sign up for electronic agenda packets and to explore the Digital Records Center, please visit the City Clerk's section of the website at www.tukwilawa.gov/clerk/cc.html.

Solid waste/recycling rate adjustment

Effective April 1, 2011, residential, multi-family and commercial solid waste and recycling rates will increase slightly. This year's increase (capped at 1.17%) will affect only the service fee portion of the total garbage bill.

Rate changes are shown below.

Service	Description	Current Rate	New Rate
RESIDENTIAL 10-Gallon Mini Car		\$ 7.53	\$ 7.60
	20-Gallon Mini Can	8.85	8.92
	32-Gallon Can/Toter	11.95	12.03
	64-Gallon Toter	17.12	17.21
	90-Gallon Toter	24.71	24.84
MULTI-FAMILY	1-Yard Container	13.53	13.62
	2-Yard Container	24.16	24.30
	4-Yard Container	45.44	45.69
	6-Yard Container	63.60	63.93
	10-Yard Container	105.77	107.01
COMMERCIAL	1-Yard Container	12.35	12.42
	2-Yard Container	21.65	21.76
	4-Yard Container	41.07	41.26
	6-Yard Container	57.31	57.54
	10-Yard Container	105.77	107.01

If you have any problems with your bills or solid waste/ recycling services, or have questions regarding the rate increase, please call Frank Iriarte in the Public Works Department at 206-431-2445, or email him at firiarte@ ci.tukwila.wa.us.

TUKWILA'S 11TH ANNUAL



SATURDAY, MAY 14 9:00AM TO 3:00PM

AT TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

15th Annual Tukwila Days Art Show and 4th Annual Recycled Art Show

For more information, call 206-767-2342

A FREE, all-day family event to educate and inspire people to welcome wildlife such as birds and butterflies - into their backyards, gardens and communities

Keynote speaker: Ciscoe Morris

Arts & Crafts Marketplace

Educational Booths

Sister Cities' Pancake Breakfast

Native Plant Sale

Guided Bird Tour along Duwamish River

Certified Backyard Habitat Garden Tour

Special Presentations

Kids Garden Party - special activities:

- Hands-on Arts & Crafts
- Educational Passport Fun
- Healthy Cooking Demos
- Shelly the Snail's Birthday Party
- Story Time with Ranger Rick
- REI's "Leave No Trace" Program
- The Bubbleman

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.BACKYARDWILDLIFEFAIR.ORG



What's New(s) in Human Services

Human Services Office
Evie – 206-433-7180 Stacy – 206-433-7181
tukhserv@ci.tukwila.wa.us

CSC is recruiting Board members

Community Schools Collaboration (CSC) provides an integrated system of academics, youth development, health and social services, family support and community development. They are currently seeking members for their Board of Directors. CSC Board members have the opportunity to positively influence the lives of young people and families in our community. Their award-winning work in Tukwila, along with current expansion efforts in neighboring Highline, is receiving local, national and international attention.

CSC offers the opportunity for community leaders with skills in business, accounting, law, marketing or strong organizational skills – plus a desire – to make a difference. Enthusiasm and a vision of a positive future for our students and communities are qualities found in all our Board members.

If you want more information, wish to get involved, or know community leaders that care about the CSC mission and can provide the guidance and leadership required of all great board members, call 206-901-2503 or email info@cscwa.org.

Cell phone service for qualified applicants

SafeLink Wireless is a nationwide program – sustained by contributions from telecommunication companies – that provides a free cell phone and 60 free monthly minutes for incomeligible customers. In Washington State, the Lifeline Service program enables qualifying customers to receive free cellular service and a free SafeLink Wireless cell phone with no bills and no contracts. Eligibility for the phone and free 60 monthly minutes varies, based on the potential customer's zip code, their participation in an eligibility program, and a household income that is at or below the level of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Potential customers must be participating in one or more of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance/Section 8
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- National School Lunch (free program only)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

For more information about program requirements, income eligibility and how to apply, please call 1-800-SAFELINK, or go to www.safelinkwireless.com.

Elder and Adult Day Services offers a free break for those who care for a loved one

If you're providing 24-hour care for your spouse or loved one due to Alzheimer's, stroke or other physical or cognitive disability, you know the demands that are placed on you. Often caregivers focus on those demands to the extent that they no longer give themselves the rest they need. When you don't allow yourself a break, it wears you down physically and emotionally to the point where you can no longer be at your best to care for your loved one.

That's where Elder and Adult Day Services (EADS) comes in. As Washington's only nationally accredited day health services provider, EADS offers Monday-thru-Friday feebased day health programs that provide activities, socialization, health and rehabilitative services to your loved one, while providing you the break you need.

Thanks to a grant from United Way of King County, EADS is now offering free respite services for your loved one – from 10:00AM—1:00PM on one Saturday a month – through its innovative travel-themed program called **Destinations**. The program offers activities, arts, games, music and food – all designed for seniors or adults with disabilities. EADS' professional health staff will care for your loved one, so you can have that valuable time to run errands, reconnect with others, or take time just for you. Upcoming themes:

Saturday, April 23 – Destinations: Mexico Saturday, May 21 – Destinations: Japan

Destinations is held at EADS' Wesley Campus Facility in Des Moines, 816 S. 216th Street, Suite #1. To reserve a space, call Chris Plyman, EADS' Center Director, at 206-859-5731.

EADS is a private, not-for-profit agency with other locations in Bellevue and Bainbridge Island. Our fee-based programs work with Medicaid, State Respite, and other funding sources. Other no-cost programs provided under the United Way grant include Powerful Tools for Caregivers: a six-week course in optimizing your abilities as a caregiver, and Stay Active and Independent for Life: an exercise program for seniors focused on fall prevention.

Crisis Clinic (24-hour line) 206-461-3222 1-866-427-4747 <u>www.crisisclinic.org</u>

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TUKWILA RESOURCE REPORTER

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, May 21 – 9:00AM **to 3:00**PM

Location: Tukwila Village site, corner of S 144th Street & 41st Avenue S (one block west of Foster High School)

Only these materials will be collected from residents and recycled:

- ❖ Anti-freeze
- Motor oil and filters
- Lead acid batteries
- ♦ Alkaline batteries (AAAA, AAA, AA, A, B, C & D cell batteries only)
- Tires (6 per load; no rims, no heavy truck or backhoe tires; some user fees apply)
- Bulky yard waste (no rocks, brush, leaves or sod)
- Scrap wood (untreated, unpainted wood only)
- Scrap metal (ferrous and non-ferrous)
- Used clothing
- Reusable household goods
- Cardboard (please flatten; no wax-coated cardboard)
- Electronic equipment (cell phones, printers, keyboards, fax machines, scanners, VCRs, CD/DVD players and stereos)
- Residential propane tanks (\$5 charge)
- ❖ Appliances (\$5 charge for each water heater with insulation)
- Porcelain toilets and sinks (remove toilet seats, hardware and base wax rings; \$5 charge)
- Refrigerators/air conditioners/ freezers (\$25 charge per unit)

You'll receive a mailing with additional information on which materials to bring and which to leave at home.

DO NOT BRING:

- * Hazardous waste
- **★** Garbage
- **★** Window glass
- **X** Concrete
- **★** Paint of any kind
- * Furniture
- **★** Plastics
- **★** Computers/Monitors

RAIN BARREL SALE

Where: Tukwila Village Site

When: May 21, 2011 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM or

while limited supplies last

What: High quality recycled plastic

rain barrels. One per family!

Supplies very limited!

Cost: \$20 - Cash only



NOTE: ALL USER FEES MUST BE PAID BY CASH ONLY



Earlier dates! July 23 & 24

Start planning now for your summer weekend of clean-up, recycling and bargains – along with your neighbors all across Tukwila – by holding a yard/garage sale at your own home!

FREE PUBLICITY FOR YOUR SALE! The City will publish sale locations in the July 20 Tukwila Reporter and the July 22 Renton Reporter newspapers. We'll put a map on the City of Tukwila website, and info on Craigslist, You'll a Yard Sale Kit with a small sign and information with tips on holding a sale.

REGISTER BY JUNE 30 to hold a sale at your home. Provide your: 1) name; 2) address of garage sale with zip code; 3) mailing address with zip code (if different than the yardsale address); 4) phone number; and 5) e-mail address.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

- Online: tukwilawa.gov/yardsale.html
- Email: rfox@ci.tukwila.wa.us
- Phone: 206-433-7178
- Mail: Rebecca Fox City of Tukwila

6300 Southcenter Boulevard

Tukwila, WA 98188

WANT TO SHOP? Where's the sales?

- Starting July 21, view a map and list of sale locations on the City's website at www.tukwilawa.gov, or pick up a map and list of sale locations during regular operating hours at Tukwila City Hall, Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila Pool, Foster Golf Course Clubhouse, and Foster Library.
- Look for the sale sites list in the July Tukwila and Renton Reporters.
- On July 23 and 24, drive around Tukwila looking for the bright yellow signs that identify sale locations.

APRIL 2011

CITY DIRECTORY

TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5:00PM

Telephone: 206-433-1800 Fax number: 206-433-1833 TTY number: 206-248-2933

Website: http://www.ci.tukwila.wa.us E-mail: tukwila@ci.tukwila.wa.us

TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL

Allan Ekberg, Pres	.206-241-6904
Joe Duffie (beeper #)	.206-994-7229
Joan Hernandez	.206-248-0260
Dennis Robertson	.206-242-6373
Verna Seal	.206-293-3274
Kathy Hougardy	.206-571-0007
De'Sean Quinn	
Kimberly Matej, Analyst	.206-433-1834

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00pm in Council Cham	npers
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Regular Meetings 1st/3rd Mondays Work Meetings2nd/4th Mondays

CITY OFFICES

Mayor's Office

Jim Haggerton, Mayor	.206-433-1805
Steve Lancaster, City Admin.	.206-433-1851
City Clerk's Office	.206-433-1800
Economic Development	.206-433-1832
Human Services	.206-433-7180
Municipal Court	.206-433-1840
Tourism/Marketing	.206-575-2489
Community Development Dept.	

Jack Pace, Director.	200-431-3070
Code Enforcement.	206-431-3682
ъ	

Finance Department

Shawn Hunstock, Director 206-433-1835

206-575-4404

Fire Department Nick Olivas Chief

TVICK OILVAS, CILIEI	200-373-4404
Human Resources Department	
Stephanie Brown, Director	206-433-1831
Personnel	206-433-1831
City Job Line	206-433-1828

Information Technology Department

Mary Miotke, Director 206-433-7150

Parks/Recreation Department

Rick Still, Director.....206-767-2342

Police Department

David Haynes, Chief206-433-1808

Public Works Department

Bob Giberson, Director......206-433-0179

Emergency

Fire, Police......911

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

12424 - 42nd Avenue South

Recreation Division206-768-2822 Senior Center/Services......206-767-2323

TUKWILA CITY POOL

4414 S. 144th Street.....206-267-2350

FOSTER GOLF LINKS

13500 Interurban Avenue South Pro Shop......206-242-4221

THE HAZELNUT

newsletter is published three times a year by the City of Tukwila, and written by City staff. Editing/production: Stacia Norris, IT Dept.

THE HAZELNUT

City of Tukwila 6200 Southcenter Blvd. Tukwila, WA 98188

Postmaster: If named addressee has moved, deliver to current resident. PRESORT STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID SEATTLE, WA PERMIT NO. 12698

To help us correct addresses or eliminate duplicates, please call 206-433-1800.

One year ago, my Hazelnut article commented on the very nice, warm weather we had just experienced in January. What a difference a year makes! The weather during the first two months of 2011 presented more cold and snow than I can remember in recent years. Our City employees have responded very well in addressing weather conditions that impact our streets. Prior to the recent storm, Public Works street crews applied salt to the dry pavement, which was very effective in preventing the streets from freezing so hard underneath the snow. Widespread compliments were received for both the good work preparing the City in advance of the snow, and the sanding and plowing which followed the storm.

On the subject of streets, I want to bring you up-to-date on some of our infrastructure activity. Everyone should be aware that we are well into the construction of our Southcenter Parkway Extension Project which will result in a new five-lane road between South 180th Street and South 200th Street.

Atkinson Construction has now started work on the Southcenter Access Project – also known as the Klickitat Project – which will impact access into the central business district until completion, currently scheduled for November. It is unfortunate that both major projects will be underway simultaneously, but the timing couldn't be avoided. Some funding sources dictated the scheduling of these projects,

and we had to move them forward to preserve all of those funds. Alternate routes shown on detour maps provided by the City plus a considerable amount of signage should help minimize the inconvenience. The good news is that this major project will be completed in one construction season and will facilitate much better traffic flow in time for 2011 holiday shopping. Find more info at www.SouthcenterAccess.com.

Tukwila has demonstrated its skills in minimizing street closure impacts on its residents, businesses and visitors. This past month the failure of sewer and water lines on Andover Park West affected traffic flow and resulted in the complete closure of that major arterial. Public Works handled the emergency extremely well, getting a contractor on site to perform the excavation, repairs and restoration of full services to that area in a reasonably short timeframe.

Streets and infrastructure are a high priority in Tukwila, and I'm aware we need to give attention to several major arterials and many residential streets throughout our neighborhoods. Our Capital Improvement Plan addresses these issues, and our hope is that the economy will continue to improve, allowing us to do much of this work sooner rather than later.